



Hawthorn Elementary School Newsletter

September 2021

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Welcome to a New School Year! We have had a great start to the year and we appreciate the positive feedback and your willingness to work with us.

Important Dates

- Thursday September 9, Stand Up to Bullying Day (Please wear a pink shirt)
- Monday September 13, Virtual SAC meeting at 6pm and Home and School at 7pm
- Thursday September 16, Curriculum sharing.
- Friday September 24, Professional Development Day (no classes).
- Tuesday September 28, Terry Fox Walk at 11:30 am.
- Thursday September 30, Truth and Reconciliation Day (no classes).
- Friday October 8, Nourish Your Roots Pickup 2-5:45pm Noggins Corner 40 Alderney Drive
- Monday October 11, Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes).
- Tuesday October 19, Picture Day
- Friday October 22, Conference Day (no classes).
- Thursday October 28, Picture Retakes.

Back to School Plan

Here are a few things we need families to be diligent about: Daily monitoring for symptoms is important to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. The latest version of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Daily Checklist is **located here** [covid daily checklist](#) and can be found on the school website. This tool should be used by families before sending their children to school. Individuals need to stay home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild. Anyone who is unsure whether they or their child should self-isolate is to contact 811. All staff will self-monitor daily for symptoms of COVID-19 at home using the checklist. Individuals who develop symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 infection cannot stay at school, even if the symptoms are mild. Families will be notified and students who become symptomatic will isolate while awaiting pick-up. Please have a plan in place in case we need you to pick up your child from school.

All staff and students in grades Pre-primary to 12 are required to wear a mask when the 6-foot social distancing protocol cannot be met. We have cloth and disposable masks on hand if your

child forgets or loses their mask. No masks are required outside.

Morning Drop Off and After School Dismissal

P-6 students will be permitted to come into the building between 8:40 and 9:00 am. Students will enter through their designated classroom door. If a student arrives after 9:00 am, they will ring the doorbell at the main office doors for entry, stop by to see Ms. Urquhart, and continue on to their classroom.

Recess and Lunch

We will be rotating the use of the zones on the playground daily. Lunch time will run from 12:00-1:00 pm. Students in grades P-2 will go outside to play from 12:00-12:30 then return inside to eat their lunch from 12:30-1:00 pm. Students in grades 3-6 will eat their lunch from 12-12:30 and go outside from 12:30-1:00 pm. We will be outside in various types of weather, so please dress your child to be comfortable for the weather outside.

Hand sanitizing

This is important for everyone entering the school. Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be used. Practicing hand hygiene (washing or sanitizing hands) will include but not be limited to the following:

Before: Entering the school/classroom. Eating/drinking/handling food. Outdoor activities.

After: Sneezing. Coughing. Blowing your nose. Outdoor activities. Eating/drinking/handling food. Cleaning. All staff and students will get a squirt when entering the building!

Visitors

Please always ring the doorbell upon arrival. This will not change. However, instead of being “buzzed in”, Ms. Urquhart will answer through the intercom and ask how she can help you. Access to the building is limited to staff, including regional centre staff and operations. We would be happy to deliver a forgotten recess snack or lunch bag to your child. We will meet you at the door and retrieve the item. If picking your child up early, please call ahead. When you arrive please ring the doorbell to let Ms. Urquhart know that you have arrived at the school and we will then page your child and have them meet you outside.

Reminders

Please send a change of clothes with your child in case of a spill and label all of your child's belongings as there will be no lost and found location to accumulate items.

We are a nut/peanut aware school. Please don't send items that contain nut/peanut ingredients. If you are sending "wow butter" please label it to prevent any confusion. We are also a scent aware school, please do not send scented products as we have a number of students with asthma and allergies. We need help to keep everyone safe.

Safe Arrival

If your child will not be attending school or will be late, we request that you call the school at 902 464-2048 and leave a message. If you have not called, you will receive a phone call home. Please ensure we have the up-to-date telephone numbers on record. If your child is late, please remind them to go to the office to see the secretary **before** going to class.

Curriculum Sharing

Teachers will be sharing information about this year's curriculum either electronically as a video, slide presentation or brochure on Thursday September 16, 2021.

Registration Forms

Registration forms for the 2021-2022 school year and the lunch program will be sent home this week. Please complete and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Lunch Monitors

We are in need of lunch monitors, even if you can help out one or two days a month or as a spare from time to time, we would appreciate your help.

School Advisory Council (SAC):

The next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will be September 13, 2021 at 6pm. *The SAC is a welcome place for any concerns that you may have regarding the school environment or curriculum concerns. If you have any concerns you would like to raise, please contact myself or the principal to have your concerns addressed at the next meeting.*

The SAC discusses and decides on policies and is made up of parents, community members and staff members from the school. We allocate funds to support math, literacy and wellbeing. The SAC is a volunteer organization that receives their authority from the Nova Scotia Education Act. We provide a voice to influence decisions that impact student learning and provide principals and regional centres for education with advice that reflects the best interests of students.

We are in need of community members for this committee. This is a great way for grandparents, former Hawthorn parents or any community member to be involved with important discussions

that affect our students, school and community. Adding a voice to this committee is an easy and effective way to contribute in a meaningful way to our students' community.

Our meetings are generally 30 minutes. For a link to the meeting, please let us know and we are happy to send it to you.

If you are interested in learning more, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Chair, Alexis Carter Malloch [SAC email](#). The SAC Handbook is also available on the school website under "Our School," "School Advisory Council".

Home and School Association

The Home and School Association (HSA) is a volunteer, non-profit organization of parents and school staff. Membership is free and open to any interested parent/guardian or staff member. We are currently looking for a president to guide our organization in extracurricular activities for students, provide support to staff and lead fundraising initiatives.

The Home and School will meet virtually on Monday September 13, at 7pm the link is

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/sku-wdav-wgd

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 501-819-2995 PIN: 120 224 474#

You may need to use your child's gnspe login, if you do not have your own gnspe email account or email dwilliamshart@hrce.ca to request an invite to the meeting.

Head Lice

If your child has been in contact with someone who has lice, you need to check your child's head carefully to see if they have caught lice. Head lice spread easily, so if one person in the household has lice, others may have it too. Check everyone in the household on the same day.

For further information on Head Lice and other communicable illnesses please go to https://811.novascotia.ca/health_topics/lice/ or our website.

Nourish Your Roots

The Nourish Your Roots online store is now Open!

Encourage customers to go online early to order their boxes especially if they want one in time for Thanksgiving, quantities are limited. Orders must be placed through the [online store](#).

Boxes sell for \$35. Schools receive \$10 per box minus any delivery and online store charges.

Pick-up at Noggins Corner, Alderney Landing, 40 Alderney Dr, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4W1 on Friday October 8, 2021 from 2.00 - 5.45pm.

Emergency Management Plan

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for *Hawthorn School* and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing during September is a hold and secure drill. During a hold and secure drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room and continue with their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Our school will also practice a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room positioned for safety until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Our school will practice evacuation drills in response to the fire alarm 3 times during the fall and 3 times during the spring. All of these drills require our students to follow directions and need to be treated with great importance.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of these procedures with students prior to running these various drills. Staff will also take time after the drills to remind students that it was only a practice and there was no danger.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about these procedures and reinforce their importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.